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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **SB 185**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING NOTICE TO PARENTS OF STUDENT ATHLETES ABOUT CONCUSSIONS AND HEAD INJURIES.***

##### **SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the State Board of Education (SBE), in consultation with the public health commissioner, to develop and approve a written statement to inform the parents and legal guardians of student athletes involved in intramural or interscholastic athletics about concussions and head injuries. It must do so by January 1, 2013.

Beginning in the 2013-14 school year, the bill requires anyone who has an SBE-issued coaching permit and coaches intramural or interscholastic athletics to provide the written SBE statement described above to the parent or legal guardian of each participating student, before beginning the activity for the school year. The coach must obtain the parent's or legal guardian's signature, affirming that the parent or guardian received a copy of the statement and authorizes the student to participate in the activity. If a coach does not fulfill these requirements, SBE may revoke his or her coaching permit, in accordance with existing procedures for revocation proceedings.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2012

##### **BACKGROUND**

###### ***Concussions and School Sports***

By law, anyone who has an SBE-issued coaching permit and who coaches intramural or interscholastic athletics must be trained in how to recognize and respond to head injuries and concussions. The law also requires intramural and interscholastic coaches to take a student athlete out of any game or practice if the athlete (1) shows signs of having suffered a concussion after an observed or suspected blow to the head or body or (2) is diagnosed with a concussion. The coach

must keep the athlete out of any game or practice until the athlete has received written clearance to participate from a licensed medical professional trained in evaluating and managing concussions (CGS §§ 10-149b & -149c).

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 21 Nay 4 (03/09/2012)

Education Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 30 Nay 1 (03/23/2012)